

2010 Communications Academy

Type III COML – "Bringing Order out of Chaos"

April 10, 2010
South Seattle Community College

Presented by:
Ron Mosher
KE7YSL

Type III COML

“Bringing Order out of Chaos”

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Type III COML
- Comms360 Intro



Overview

- Type III COML Background, History and Development
- What is a Type III COML?
- How many are there?
- Why do we need Type III COMLs?
- Is the program working?
- Current Issues
- Areas with much different communications deployment needs and usage)



Fast Pay

Grade	Price
REG	1.59
REG	1.69
REG	1.79



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COML – “Bringing Order out of Chaos”

History

- Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plans were developed for the selected 75 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) locations
- TIC Plans required a COML
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) has a well established COML program for wild-lands firefighting (mostly rural areas with much different communications deployment needs and usage)



Background

- During all-hazards emergency response operations, communications among multiple jurisdictions and disciplines – including LE, Fire, and EMS – is essential
- Unfortunately, the absence of on-scene communications coordination has often hampered critical operations
- To close the capability gap – Federal agencies and practitioners from across the country developed performance and training standards for the All Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) Course

Type III COML Advisory Committee

- An advisory committee was established to oversee the course development
- Included reps from Fire Depts, Dispatch Centers, Technical Specialists, NWCG certified Type 1 COMLs and 2 members from the Seattle FD
- The Field Operations Guide and Task Book were a product of their direct input

Type III COML Course Development

- Curriculum was developed, Alpha and Beta delivery and the Train-the-Trainer Class
- Alpha Class presentation – held in Los Angeles – LE, Fire, and Dispatch were represented
- Train-the-Trainer classes were held in Las Vegas and Atlanta by invitation

Training Curriculum Approval

- The final product was submitted to the NIMS Integration Center
- Reviewed by Academia and “Chiefs” from the Northeast
- Adopted by the Office of Emergency Communications

What are the Type III COML prerequisites?

- One that has a public safety communications background with exposure to field operations
- One with knowledge of:
 - Local area communications and communications systems
 - Frequencies and spectrum
 - Technologies
 - Local topography
 - Communications and resource contacts
 - State, Regional and Local Plans

Other Type III COML prerequisites?

- National Incident Management System (NIMS) training (some/many are on-line courses):
 - IS-800b
 - IS-700
 - ICS-100
 - ICS-200
 - ICS-300

Course Objectives

- Identify the functions of the Communications Unit and the duties and responsibilities of the COML.
- Arrive at an all-hazards incident properly equipped, gather information to assess the assignment, and begin initial planning activities of a COML.
- Plan, staff, manage, and demobilize the Communications Unit in a safe and effective manner to meet the needs of the incident.

Course Objectives

- Coordinate with the incident sections, appropriate communications personnel (e.g., communications coordinators), and other agencies to assist in accomplishing the overall incident objectives
- Design, order, and ensure the installation and maintenance of all communications systems
- Maintain accountability of assigned communications equipment

What is a Type III Incident?

- Activation of some or all of the Command and General Staff positions, as well as –
- Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader-level positions
- A Type III Incident Management Team (IMT) or incident command organization
- Extension into multiple operational periods
- Typically, a written Incident Action Plan (IAP) for each operational period

What is a Type III COML?

- The COML manages the technical and operational aspects of the communications function
- Develops Incident Radio Communications Plan, NIMS/ICS Form 205
- Actively participates in the operational and planning meetings
- Assists proactively with preplanned events
- Understands the realities of deployment to emergencies and events

Is the Type III – COML Program working?

Yes, however:

- Rural vs. Urban
- Natural Disasters vs. few occurrences
- High Value Target vs. Low Value Target

CONCERNS ABOUT CERTIFICATION

ISSUE #1:

- Completion of the COML Type III Task Book

SOLUTIONS:

- Establish a relationship with a Certified COML
- Participate in large scale Functional and Full Scale Exercises as the COML
- Participate in Planned Events as the COML

CONCERNS ABOUT CERTIFICATION

ISSUE #1 (Continued):

- Completion of the COML Type III Task Book

SOLUTIONS :

- Participate as a COML in Unplanned Events such as multi county Search and Rescue operations for lost hikers, snowmobilers, downed aircraft, missing boaters

CONCERNS ABOUT CERTIFICATION

ISSUE #2:

- “One Size Fits All”

SOLUTIONS:

- Examine what other states are doing
- COMG....Generalist / Regional COMLs
- Some Hospitals have ARES and RACES personnel as their primary emergency communicators

CONCERNS ABOUT CERTIFICATION

ISSUE #2 (Continued):

- “One Size Fits All”

SOLUTIONS:

- Be proactive by looking at your local situation and think about who has to talk with whom, what radio frequencies or talk groups are available, how can you make it work in the first hour to have the basics of a Command channel, Operations channel, Staging channel, and a channel for Law, Fire, and EMS

CONCERNS ABOUT CERTIFICATION

ISSUE #2 (Continued):

- “One Size Fits All”

SOLUTIONS:

- ***National Emergency Communications Plan***
 - Goal 2: By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

CONCERNS ABOUT CERTIFICATION

ISSUE #2 (Continued):

- “One Size Fits All”

SOLUTIONS:

- ***National Emergency Communications Plan***
 - Goal 3: By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours of a significant event as outlined in national planning scenarios.

Training and Exercise Strategy

Comms360 Methodology

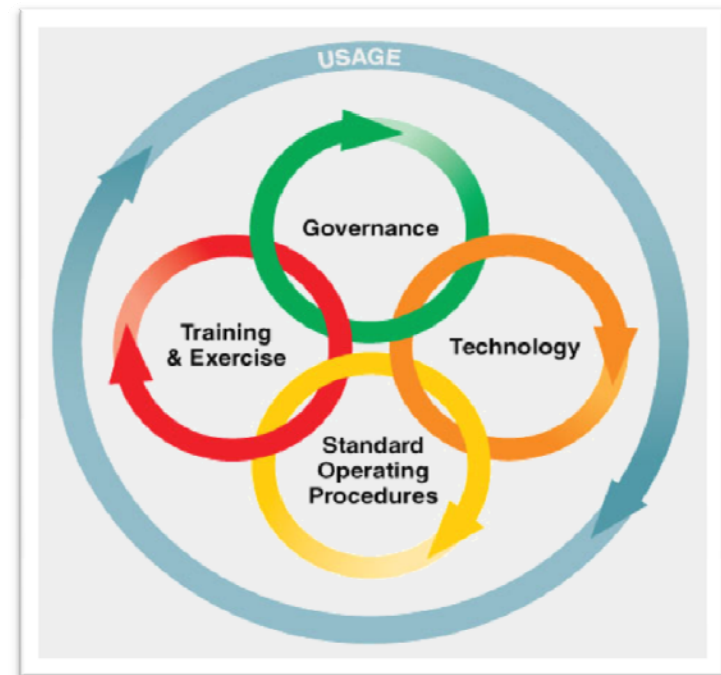
- Comms First
- Simplify Comms Training & Exercise
- Existing Protocols and Procedures
- ICS Structure for Comms response
- Scenario based multi – agency approach
- Validate Communications Plan Often

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COMMS 360

- Tools, Techniques and Processes
- Interoperability is a process, not an end state

Interoperability
is a process
to learn and
continually
improve.....
not an end state.



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“I believe tomorrow will be better than today because of your training, dedication and professionalism in the world of communications.”

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QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU